(d) the reasons for not seeking cooperation of private sector in increasing the availability of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Government has taken a number of measures for augmenting domestic supplies, by permitting imports at zero duty, imposing a ban on export of pulses, and importing pulses through specified public sector agencies and cooperatives.

(c) and (d) Import of pulses is under OGL and can be imported by everyone including private sector. Free importability is continuing since more than 10 years. To encourage private traders to import pulses, import duty has been reduced to zero per cent on 8th June, 2006 from the earlier rate of 10%, and the zero per cent duty regime has been extended upto 31.3.2009.

In view of the substantially large quantities of pulses proposed to be imported by the concerned public sector agencies and cooperatives, over different periods of time, from different suppliers and in different lots, losses, if any, on account of import of pulses by the concerned public sector agencies and NAFED would qualify for some limited subsidy.

Facilities for freedom fighters.

†*149. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the freedom fighters in the country, State-wise;

(b) the facilities being provided by Government to these freedom fighters;

(c) whether any proposal for enhancing these facilities is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to enhance these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) Since the inception of the Freedom Fighters' Pension Scheme in 1972, the Central Government has sanctioned pension to approximately 1.70 lakh freedom fighters and their eligible dependents till 31st July, 2007. State-wise break-up of freedom fighters/dependents who have been sanctioned pension is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The details of facilities being provided by the Central Government to the freedom fighters are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The rates of Pension payable to freedom fighters were revised in October 2006 as indicated below:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Category	Rate of monthly basic pension upto (01.10.2006) (Rs.)	Rate of monthly basic pension from (02.10.2006) (Rs.)
1 (a)	Ex-Andaman political prisoners	5,000/-	7,330/-
(b)	Freedom fighters who suffered outside British India (other than INA)	4,500/-	6,830/-
2.	Other freedom fighters	4,000/-	6,330/-
3.	Widow/widower of above categories of freedom fighters	Entitlement same as of the respective deceased freedom fighter	Entitlement same as of the respective deceased freedom fighter

In addition, dearness relief at the enhanced rate of 58% of the basic pension is also payable on the basic amount of pension.

Keeping in view the recent revision in the rates of pension, no further proposal in this regard is presently under consideration of the Government.

Statement-I

State-wise break up of freedom fighters/dependent who have been sanctioned pension

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Pensions sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14,572
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	4,438
4. & 5.	Bihar and Jharkhand	24,870
6.	Goa	1,427
7.	Gujarat	3,594
8.	Haryana	1,684
9.	Himachal Pradesh	617

1	2	3
10	Jammu and Kashmir	1,806
11.	Karnataka	10,083
12.	Kerala	3,206
13. & 14.	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	3,466
15.	Maharashtra	17,581
16.	Manipur	62
17.	Meghalaya	86
18.	Mizoram	04
19.	Nagaland	03
20.	Orissa	4,189
21.	Punjab	7,008
22.	Rajasthan	809
23.	Sikkim	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	4,097
25.	Tripura	887
26. & 27	Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand	17,990
28.	West Bengal	22,479
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	03
30.	Chandigarh	89
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	83
32.	Daman and Diu	33
33.	Lakshadweep	0
34.	NCT of Delhi	2,043
35.	Pondicherry	317
	Indian National Army (INA)	22,467
	TOTAL:	169,993

Statement-II

Details of pension and other facilities being given by the Government to freedom fighters.

(i) The current rate of pension and dearness relief payable per month to various categories of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are given below:

Sl. No.	Category of freedom fighters	Basic Pension (in Rs.)	Dearness Relief (in Rs.)	Total amount of pension (in Rs.)
i	Ex-Andaman political prisoners	7,330/-	4,251/-	11,581/-
ii	Freedom fighters who suffered outside British India (other than INA)	6,830/-	3,961/-	10,791/-
iii.	Other freedom fighters (including INA)	6,330/-	3,671/-	10,001/-
iv.	Widow/widower of above categories of freedom fighters	Entitlement same as of respective deceased freedom fighters		
v.	Unmarried and unemployed daughters (upto three)	1,500/- each	870/- each	2,370/-
vi.	Mother and father	1,000/- each	580/- each	1,580/-

(ii) Free railway pass (1st Class/AC Sleeper) for freedom fighter and widower/ widow, along with a companion, for life;

(iii) Free medical facilities in all Central Government hospitals and hospitals run by PSUs under the control of the Bureau of Public Enterprises. C.G.H.S. facilities have also been extended to freedom fighters and their dependents;

(iv) Telephone connection, subject to feasibility, without installation charges, and on payment of only half the rental;

(v) General Pool residential accommodation (within the overall 5% discretionary quota) to freedom fighters living in Delhi;

(vi) Widow/widower of the freedom fighter is also permitted to retain the accommodation for a period of six months after the death of the freedom fighter;

(vii) Accommodation in the Freedom Fighters' Home set up at New Delhi for freedom fighters who have no one to look after them.

(viii) In addition to the above facilities, ex-Andaman freedom fighters are also entitled to the following facilities:

(a) free voyage facility for freedom fighter and widow, to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion; and

(b) free air travel facility for freedom fighter, to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion.

(ix) All major facilities provided to freedom fighters are also extended to their widows/widowers.

Killing of army officers by juniors

*150. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of army officers, during the last two years, were killed by their juniors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to protect the lives of army officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There have been one incident each in 2005 and 2007 and three incidents in 2006 in the Army where officers have been killed by their juniors. These are isolated incidents. The major causative factors identified for such killings are:-

(a) Stress due to prolonged commitment in counter insurgency environment.

(b) Perceived lack of concern shown by superiors to the problems of individual.

(c) Prolonged separation from family and difficulty in attending to family commitments.

(d) Low tolerance levels in certain soldiers further aggravated by stress full environment.

(e) Domestic problems like personal, marital, financial etc. causing heavy stress coupled with denial of leave leading to frustration.